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pursued by Comte. The work of Lester Ward, in the opinion of the author, is more unified and better rounded out than that of Comte and Spencer, "the process of scientific crystallization having developed farther in him." Though he acknowledges his debt to his predecessors, and his work stands in close connection with theirs, it cannot be said to lose originality on that account.

The author accounts for Comte's being so little known in Germany by the fact of the affinity between the social teachings of German scholars and of Comte, due to a similarity of method and point of view. The historical bent of the German mind began to manifest itself nearly synchronously with the positivism of Comte; the results showed naturally many coincidences, which were the outcome of a chance independent parallel development. To the Germans, therefore, Comte did not represent a wholly new idea as he did to the English. Moreover, the strained political relations between France and Germany affected even intellectual intercourse between the two countries; and the well-known French predilection for an abstract treatment of social questions may have deterred German readers from acquainting themselves with any French work on social science.

Waentig's criticism of Comte as well as of the later sociologists is given on the basis of an almost exhaustive knowledge of the literature of the whole subject, and his opinions are marked by impartiality and keen discernment.

Louisville, Ky.

ELLEN C. SEMPLE.

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*American Charities.* By AMOS G. WARNER. Pp. 430. Price, \$1.75. New York and Boston. T. Y. Crowell & Co., 1894.

This is the first comprehensive treatise on this subject which is at once scientific and popular. It is both in a high degree, not a compromise between the two. The writer has rare qualifications for his work. To the most thorough collegiate and university training he has joined several years' practical experience in work of this kind, first in connection with the Charity Organization Society of Baltimore, and later as Superintendent of Charities for the District of Columbia. His keen observation and rare good sense have enabled him to profit to the utmost by these exceptional opportunities. It is probably an advantage also that he has now withdrawn from the work and can decide questions with disinterestedness from an academic chair, undisturbed by the heat of controversy.

Part I is "Introductory and Theoretical." After a brief chapter by way of historical introduction comes the discussion of the causes of poverty and the personal and social causes of individual degeneration.

While large attention is given to Dugdale, the book certainly carries the discussion a step farther than previous writers have done. On the all-important question of heredity nothing very conclusive can be said till clearer light is thrown upon the controverted theory of Weissmann. The inheritance of acquired defects is involved in the question of the transmission of acquired characters generally, a question now undecided. If Weissmann is correct in claiming that there is no such transmission, then Dugdale's conclusion that hereditary degeneration is but the cumulative result of long standing unfavorable environment is erroneous. Likewise all efforts to improve pauper stock by improved surroundings are fruitless of lasting good. Elimination is the only possible line of progress. With the question of the redeemability of pauper stock unsettled the whole problem of charity seems to be held in abeyance. With characteristic sense, however, the writer sees a line of procedure adapted to either conclusion. Whether bad stock can be bred up to soundness or not, it is not the best for breeding purposes and its reproduction should be humanely prevented. Again, whether personal improvement can be transmitted or not, it is enjoined upon us in the interest of the individual himself and equally in the interest of those subjective factors upon which the existence of society depends. Our program is therefore a plain one; humane treatment of the constitutionally degenerate with greater emphasis upon permanent custodial care as tending to painless extinction of undesirable stock. Other questions are discussed with equal thoroughness and with equally satisfactory outcome.

Part II treats of practical methods of dealing with the different dependent classes. This is, perhaps, the most satisfactory part of the book. The writer examines dispassionately the arguments in favor of indoor and outdoor relief and pronounces emphatically in favor of the former, not only as more deterrent and ultimately more economical, but as alone permitting the indispensable restriction of reproduction already mentioned. All the usual classes are considered, the chapter on Dependent Children being especially good.

Philanthropic Financiering is the subject of Part III and receives here so far as we know its only adequate treatment. Following the discussion of the relative merits of public and private charities and of endowments is an admirable and much needed chapter on Public Subsidies to Private Charities. The writer is entirely free from sectarian or professional bias and his moderation enhances the force of the conclusions to which facts irresistibly force us. This chapter in connection with that on Dependent Children gives an almost unparalleled example of mismanagement.

Three chapters on the supervision, organization and betterment of

charities fittingly complete the text which is followed by an index and a valuable bibliography.

It is impossible to do justice to so excellent a book in a brief review. It is just what we want. I have called it both scientific and popular. I believe no scientific conclusions of importance have been overlooked or misstated in the preparation of the book. It is both up to date and discriminating. On the other hand it is thoroughly readable and interesting. People who are interested neither in science nor charity will find the book interesting, even fascinating at times. And withal, there are few subjects where intelligence is more needed. The widest possible acquaintance with book is greatly to be desired. It is admirably adapted for use as a college text-book.

H. H. POWERS.

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*Sam Houston and the War of Independence in Texas.* By ALFRED M. WILLIAMS. Pp. vii, 405. Price, \$2.00. Boston and New York : Houghton, Mifflin & Co., 1893.

This book deals, as its title indicates, primarily with the life of Houston and secondarily with the War of Independence in Texas. About one-third of the total space is given to this war. The character of Houston is painted in sharp outline, and the delineation is, in the main, historically correct, though the shading might have been made a little more complete and satisfactory. The material has been well considered, and no part of it seems to have been neglected. Personal reminiscences and stories relative to Houston current among the survivors of his generation have been drawn upon extensively.

The account of the war is a condensed and broadly faithful tracing of the current of events during that period. The narrative flows along in a fairly easy and pleasant way ; but it is marred now and then by rather serious faults of style consisting most frequently in confused forms of expression.

The book contains several typographical errors, such as "Nachidoches," p. 57, for Nacogdoches. By some kind of slip 1835 on p. 128 and again on p. 155 is put for 1836. Other slips are more serious. It is not true, as stated on p. 231, that the short-lived Texas Railroad, Navigation and Banking Company agreed to pay no more for its privileges than a bonus of \$25,000. It was to pay also 2½ per cent of its net profits per annum and was to furnish the government free transportation for soldiers and munitions of war. The statement that Houston repulsed an attempt to bribe him to support the bill incorporating the company and then "vigorously opposed" it would appear more credible if his name were not signed to the bill.